Visit to foreign countries by Scientists, technologists and officials of scientific departments

2231. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have banned visits to foreign countries by Government servants in view of the difficult foreign exchange position;

(b) whether in spite of the ban some officials, Scientists and Technologists have been sent on foreign visits by various scientific departments and Ministries;

(c) if so, what are the details thereof;

(d) total expenditure incurred and the source of meeting the expenditure;

(e) the number of those who were sponsored on the basis of invitations received from foreign organisations and institutions; and

(f) the number of the invitations received as a result of formal/informal requests by the concerned officers/ invitees?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA): (a) to (f) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Appointments in violation of CSIR Instructions

2232. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in terms of CSIR instructions dated 30th March, 1990 the recruitment of casual workers/ daily wagers and on contract basis has been banned except in the case of sponsored projects or for an specific time bound work;

(b) whether it is a fact that some appointments have been made in violations of these instructtions since then;

(c) whether Government have taken any action or propose to hold an inquiry to bring to book the officials responsible for these violations; and

(d) if so, the details thereof, if not the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir. Some appointments were reported to have been made in some of the CSIR Laboratories in violation of these instructions. However, subsequent to a directive from CSIR, all such appointments have been discontinued, except in the case of four persons retained by the Regional Research Laboratory (RRL), Jammu at their Srinagar Branch Office, where due to the prevailing law and order problems and other security risks involved, it has not been possible to make regular appointments.

(c) and (d) The matter with regard to the circumstances leading to such appointments is being examined.

Biotechnology information network

2233. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Department of Biotechnology has launched a scheme of "Biotechnology Information Network" in the country;

(b) if so what is the year-wise and State-wise expenditure so far incurred on the Scheme;

(c) what are the salient features of the Biotechnology Information Network Scheme and what are the terms and conditions for enabling the general researchers to make use of the Scheme;

(d) the number of general researcher who have been benefited so far from the above Scheme;